CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An adapter for drawing water from a bottled water dispenser having an upper rim surrounding an opening, comprising:

a. a bottle support ring, said ring being sized and configured to rest over the upper rim of the bottled water dispenser; and,

b. a water supply line, said line passing transversely through said support ring, defining a feed portion extending into the bottled water dispenser and a delivery portion extending outside the bottled water dispenser.

2. An adapter as in claim 1 in which said ring is made from a resilient material, sufficiently strong to support the weight of a bottle of water without substantially deforming, and in which said water supply line is made from plastic tubing.

3. An adapter for drawing water from a bottled water dispenser having an upper rim surrounding an opening, and an upended bottle of water having a neck inserted in the opening of the water dispenser, comprising:

a. support means for maintaining a bottle of water in spaced relation above the upper rim of the bottled water dispenser, said support means further providing a seal between a shoulder of the bottle and the upper rim of the bottled water dispenser; and,

b. a water supply line passing transversely through said support means, said water supply line having a feed portion extending into the bottled water dispenser and a delivery portion extending outside the bottled water dispenser.

4. An apparatus for providing bottled water to a refrigerator, comprising:

a. a water utilization accessory inside the refrigerator, said accessory having a water delivery system with a water recharge line, an electrical control circuit providing electrical output for a predetermined period of time in response to a detected deficiency of water within said accessory, and a water pump responsive to said electrical output of said control circuit, said pump further having a hydraulic input and a hydraulic output, said hydraulic output being connected to said water recharge line;

b. a reservoir of bottled water located outside the refrigerator; and,

c. a water supply line extending between said reservoir of water and said hydraulic input of said water pump, said water supply line having a feed portion immersed in said reservoir and a delivery portion extending outside said reservoir to said hydraulic input of said water pump.

5. An apparatus as in claim 4 in which said water utilization accessory is an automatic ice maker.

6. An apparatus for providing bottled water to a refrigerator, comprising:

a. a water utilization accessory inside the refrigerator, said accessory having a water delivery system with a water recharge line, an electrical control circuit providing an

electrical output on demand, and a water pump responsive to said electrical output of said control circuit, said pump further having a hydraulic input and a hydraulic output, said hydraulic output being connected to said water recharge line;

b. a reservoir of bottled water located outside the refrigerator; and,

c. a water supply line extending between said reservoir of water and said hydraulic input of said water pump, said water supply line having a feed portion immersed in said reservoir and a delivery portion extending outside said reservoir to said hydraulic input of said water pump.

7. An apparatus as in claim 6 in which said water utilization accessory is a water chiller.

8. An apparatus for providing bottled water to a refrigerator, comprising:

a. a water utilization accessory inside the refrigerator, said accessory having a water delivery system with a water recharge line, an electrical control circuit providing electrical output for a predetermined period of time in response to a detected deficiency of water within said accessory, and a water pump responsive to said electrical output of said control circuit, said pump further having a hydraulic input and a hydraulic output, said hydraulic output being connected to said water recharge line; and,

b. bottled water containment means located outside the refrigerator, said containment means including a water supply line having a feed portion immersed in the contained bottled water and a delivery portion extending outside the containment means, said delivery portion being interconnected to said hydraulic input of said water pump.

9. An apparatus as in claim 8 in which said bottle water containment means comprises a bottled

water dispenser, said dispenser including an upper rim surrounding an opening, an adapter including a bottle support ring, said bottle support ring having a lower side installed over said upper rim, said bottle support ring further having an upper side, and said water supply line passing transversely through said bottle support ring.

10. An apparatus as in claim 9 in which said ring is made from a resilient material, sufficiently strong to support the weight of a bottle of water without substantially deforming, and in which said water supply line is made from plastic tubing.

11. A method for modifying a refrigerator having a water utilization accessory inside the refrigerator, the accessory having a water delivery system with a water recharge line, an electrical control circuit providing an electrical output for a predetermined period of time in response to a detected deficiency of water within the accessory, and a solenoid valve responsive to the electrical output of the control circuit, the solenoid valve further having an inlet connected to a pressurized source of water and an outlet connected to the water recharge line, comprising the steps of:

a. disconnecting the electrical control circuit from the solenoid valve;

b. disconnecting the inlet of the solenoid valve from the pressurized source of water;

c. disconnecting the outlet of the solenoid valve from the water recharge line;

d. removing the solenoid valve from the refrigerator;

e. installing a water pump in the refrigerator in proximity to the electrical control circuit and the water recharge line, said water pump having an electrical input, a hydraulic input, and a hydraulic output;

f. connecting the electrical control circuit to said electrical input of said water pump; and,

g. connecting the water recharge line to said hydraulic input of said water pump.

12. A method as in claim 11 in which said water utilization accessory is an ice maker.

13. A method as in claim 11 in which said water utilization accessory is a water chiller.

14. A method as in claim 11 further including the step of connecting a water supply line in hydraulic communication with a reservoir of bottled water to said hydraulic input of said water pump.

15. A method as in claim 11 further including the step of installing a pump mounting bracket in the refrigerator at a location in proximity to the electrical control circuit and the water recharge line, after the solenoid valve is removed.

16. A method as in claim 11 in which the refrigerator includes two water utilization accessories, the first of which is an ice maker, and the second of which is a water chiller.